NEW YORK COMMUNITY CENTER ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021:

- 789 women, men, and their families were provided with 3,969 case management services.
- 537 clients were provided with 2,188 cases of legal support.
- 133 women participated in WAW’s empowerment classes.
- 109 clients applied for US citizenship with 28 clients naturalized.
- 25 older Afghan women participated in our Seniors Program.
- 172 women participated in 18 Women’s Circle sessions. Topics included mental health, Covid-19 awareness, tenant/housing rights, domestic violence, sexual assault, and elder abuse.
- 72 Muslim youth from NYC’s immigrant communities benefited from leadership development, civic engagement, college readiness, and workshops on issues that impact them.
- 29 participated in the Girls Leadership Program, and 6 participated in the Boys Leadership Program.
- 31 participated in our Youth Rising Program for girls, and 6 participated in Youth Rising Program for boys.

Between 08/2021 and 02/2022, WAW in the United States provided:

- 500 Afghan evacuee families at Fort Dix with clothing and other essential items.
- 191 individuals (47 families) with temporary housing through Airbnb.
- 26 families with ground transportation services through Uber.
- 40 individuals received cash assistance.
- 10 unaccompanied Afghan minors in NY with support and mentorship programming.

AFGHAN WOMEN STRONG

Women for Afghan Women (WAW) is a grassroots, civil society organization dedicated to advocating for women’s rights, challenging the norms that underpin gender-based violence, and influencing harmful attitudes to bring about positive change.

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PHOTOS TAKEN BY WAW STAFF, VOLUNTEERS & PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
immigrants in NY and provides remote support to Afghans residing outside this area. Among our NYCC staff are English, Pashto, Farsi/Dari, Urdu, Hindi, Arabic, and Spanish speakers.

The NYCC also is located in the heart of the Afghan refugee and immigrant community in Queens, which allows WAW to serve a record and ever-expanding number of Afghan and Muslim women, youth, and families with the following programs:

**CASE MANAGEMENT AND ONSITE LEGAL SUPPORT** to assist clients who need support with domestic violence or immigration cases, including navigating uncertain legal options and public benefits, education referrals and counseling, job placement, and language interpretation, among others.

**REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT RESPONSE** services to meet the immediate needs of thousands of refugees resettling in the US, including all of WAW’s case management services and partnerships with private companies, non-profit resettlement agencies, and US government agencies to provide temporary housing, transportation, household provisions and personal items, among other critical needs.

**MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING** to help Afghan refugees and evacuees better deal with their trauma; and, to develop positive coping skills, especially in light of the panic attacks, post-traumatic stress, survivors’ guilt, and depression that they often suffer.

**ADULT EMPOWERMENT CLASSES** such as English as a Second Language (ESL), citizenship, driver test preparation, and other life-skills classes, including financial literacy and vocational sewing classes for survivors of domestic violence.

**WOMEN’S CIRCLES** are monthly support groups that offer a safe and confidential space for clients to discuss issues relevant to their lives, including domestic violence and women’s rights.

**YOUTH PROGRAMS** including a GIRLS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (GLP) for girls aged 10-15; a BOYS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (BLP) for boys aged 10-15; and an AFGHAN YOUTH RISING PROGRAM (AYR) for youth aged 16-20. WAW’s Youth Programs ensure that children and youth from the local Afghan and Muslim immigrant communities have a safe space to convene and openly discuss issues that pertain to them, such as college readiness, career development, culture, religion, women’s rights, and gender-based violence. The program also develops participants’ skills in leadership, communication, and critical thinking.

Since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021, *Women for Afghan Women* (WAW) has seen a 300% increase in requests for its services and programs in the United States (US). The takeover has created a humanitarian and global refugee crisis, with over 80,000 Afghans arriving in the US between 2021-2022. These Afghan refugees and evacuees arrive with an immediate need for comprehensive, culturally sensitive, and linguistically appropriate support to rebuild their lives. WAW has over 20 years of experience and expertise to meet these needs.

Currently, WAW is the only Afghan-led 501(c)(3) direct service organization on the US East Coast that provides culturally sensitive social services in Dari and Pashto, and the only Afghan-led organization to provide support to Afghan survivors of domestic violence. Afghan and other immigrant women in the US particularly face compounding challenges navigating complex systems. Many experience domestic violence, poverty, and isolation—with limited access to opportunities and support. Our community centers in New York and Virginia exist to help empower these immigrant women so that they may lift themselves out of their challenging circumstances.

Virginia has the second largest Afghan community in the US—having over 23,000 or 18% of the US total Afghan population. More than 6,000 new Afghans also have arrived in the state since 2021, with thousands more expected to arrive in 2022 and beyond, according to government officials in Virginia. WAW and its resettlement partners also expect more newly arrived Afghans to move to the greater DC area after their 90-day resettlement support period ends in order to be closer to families and an established Afghan community.

WAW’s Virginia Community Center (VACC) was established in 2022 to provide vital services to newly arriving Afghans in the area, in addition to supporting more established Afghan and other immigrant communities.

WAW’s VACC is located in Alexandria, Virginia (where the majority of local Afghans reside) and will provide the following immediate, free, culturally sensitive, and linguistically competent services:

**CASE MANAGEMENT SUPPORT** to ensure Afghan and other immigrant families can meet their basic needs, including housing, job matching, healthcare, education, certifications/vocational training, transportation, accompaniment to appointments, interpretation/translation, and any other needs.

**IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES** that the majority of newly arrived Afghan evacuees, refugees and parolees need for adjustment of status, asylum, naturalization, among others.

**MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING** to help Afghan refugees and evacuees better deal with their trauma; and, to develop positive coping skills, especially in light of the panic attacks, post-traumatic stress, survivors’ guilt, and depression that they often suffer.

**ADULT EMPOWERMENT CLASSES** such as ESL and citizenship classes, and other life-skills and vocational training for Afghan and other immigrant women.

**AFTER-SCHOOL AND YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS** to help students in the community with high school and college preparedness, career development, and civic engagement. **WAW is not just a place we go to for services. It is a lifestyle. It is family.” — WAW US client**